

University of Maine, Coast Guard Composite Ice Buoy Demonstration Project, Orono, Maine - \$495,000

The Coast Guard believes there are legitimate opportunities in this project to improve ice buoy designs; ones that integrate and improve radar reflective functionality, provide more ice-damage resistant characteristics through buoy geometry and composition, and to improve visibility by impregnating colors into composite materials via exterior application. The improved performance from these composite or hybrid-composite buoys could reduce life-cycle cost by 20 percent through targeted improvements to maintenance periods, facilitate safer navigation, extended product lifespan, and reduced logistics costs, including through improved anti-fouling technology.